



**United States Border Patrol  
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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **BORDER PATROL EFFECTS MOUNTAIN RESCUE INJURED MIGRANT ABANDONED BY SMUGGLER**

**TECATE, CALIFORNIA:** The U.S. Border Patrol conducted a rescue today in the rugged terrain of East County. Border Patrol agents and the Border Search Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR) team came to the assistance of a female migrant with a broken foot. The rescue occurred near Tecate Peak, approximately three miles north of the international border, and one-and-a-half miles from the Tecate Port of Entry.

At approximately 10 a.m., Border Patrol agents encountered a group of undocumented migrants who reported that they had left behind a woman who had been injured. The group reported that shortly after the woman sustained her injury, the smuggler abandoned them and returned to Mexico.

Border Patrol agents immediately began a search for the woman and, 40 minutes later, a Border Patrol helicopter pilot spotted her and relayed her position to teams on the ground. By 11 a.m. agents hiked to her location and, shortly afterward, two BORSTAR agents rappelled from the Border Patrol "Huey" rescue helicopter to render aid. The BORSTAR team performed a "litter extraction," in which the victim is placed in a basket, hanging from the helicopter, and accompanied by a rescuer. The victim was then transported to an awaiting ambulance.

Today's incident serves as another example of the callous nature of alien smugglers. Migrants are often unwittingly led into treacherous terrain or exposed to hazardous weather conditions by smugglers who are more concerned with financial gain than the sanctity of human life. The on-going bi-national Border Safety Initiative and aggressive prosecution by the U.S. Attorney's Office are battling these reckless smuggling attempts.

**Video footage of a mock "litter extraction rescue" is available  
at the Public Information Office until 5:00 p.m.**

**No further information is available at this time.**